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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2016, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2016

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM COTTON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

To You, O Lord, we lift our hearts, for we trust You to guide our lives. Show us the path where we should walk; point out the right road for us to follow. Lead our lawmakers by Your truth, as they put their hope in You. Lord, give them the humility to accept Your guidance so that with reverence they may arrive at Your desired destination. Hear their silent prayers, as they give their time and strength to keep America strong. Kindle in their hearts a flame of devotion to freedom's cause in our Nation and world.

Lord, on this 72nd anniversary of D-day, we thank You for the courage and self-sacrifice that paid the price for our freedom.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 6, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM COTTON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COTTON thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

DONALD TRUMP AND THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Senate is returning from a 10-day recess, but even though the Republicans took 10 days off, the Zika virus did not.

Last week a child was born in New Jersey with severe birth defects caused by the Zika virus. Thousands of our citizens are exposed to Zika now, today, but the problem will only get worse. Zika is a problem that is here and is not going away quickly. As the

weather continues to warm and the mosquitoes become more active, it will inevitably cause local transmission. The number of infected Americans will skyrocket.

In light of the threat posed by Zika, one would expect Republicans to spend their break working on an emergency spending bill to send to the President's desk with the full amount, \$1.9 billion. They did not. Instead, Republicans spent their recess boasting their Republican standard bearer, Donald Trump. The Republican Party's capitulation to Donald Trump is complete. As headlined last week in the Washington Post, "It's official: The GOP is now the Party of Trump."

I was especially disappointed to see that our senior Senator from Kentucky personally led this pro-Trump propaganda tour. Senator MCCONNELL spent last week as Donald Trump's head cheerleader, a trumpet. The Republican leader left Washington 10 days ago without doing his job on Zika so he could stump for Trump. In the last 10 days, it has become clear that Senator MCCONNELL will go to any length to support Donald Trump.

Consider the Republican leader's refusal to denounce Donald Trump's racist attack on U.S. District Court Judge Curiel, a man born in Indiana—in the United States. Donald Trump opined a Federal judge should be disqualified from presiding on his case because of his Mexican heritage. He went even further in saying he would feel the same way if the judge were Muslim. How did the Republican leader respond? Senator MCCONNELL repeatedly refused to say Donald Trump's attacks

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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on Judge Curiel's ethnicity are racist. This is precisely the type of failure that gave rise to Donald Trump in the first place.

Senator MCCONNELL and all congressional leaders have never taken a stand against Trump's vile rhetoric. That is because the hate emanating from Trump's mouth reflects the Republican Party's agenda in the U.S. Senate for the last 7½ years—the agenda Senator MCCONNELL himself promoted. For years Senator MCCONNELL and other Republican leaders embraced the darkest elements within their party. The Republican Party made anti-woman, anti-Latino, anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant, and anti-Obama policies the norm. Trump is the logical conclusion of what Republican leaders have been saying and doing for the past 7½ years.

By refusing to denounce Trump's attack on a Federal judge for the racism it clearly connotes, it shows Senator MCCONNELL is the poster boy for Republicans' spinelessness that allowed Donald Trump to be the Republican nominee for President of the United States. I have made this argument for months. I am not the only one making it now. Now, even some Republicans are joining me. The conservative blog "RedState" railed against Senator MCCONNELL's refusal to condemn Trump's racist attacks.

The conservative blog "RedState" said this: "[Senator MCCONNELL] fell back to the last coward's refuge: we have to support Trump because he won the primary."

The junior Senator from Nebraska, Mr. SASSE, a Republican, is willing to say what Senator MCCONNELL will not. What he is saying today and he tweeted was: "Public Service Announcement: Saying someone can't do a specific job because of his or her race is the literal definition of 'racism.'"

Newt Gingrich, former Republican Speaker of the House, called Trump's comments "inexcusable." There are others. But for his part, Senator MCCONNELL is doubling down on Trump. The Republican leader is waging a nonstop campaign to persuade any Republicans who have doubts about supporting Trump to drop their complaints and fall in line. The Republican leader even went so far—listen to this—as to compare Donald Trump as comparable to President Dwight Eisenhower, to GEN Dwight Eisenhower.

Donald Trump is a failed businessman who bilked millions of Americans out of their hard-earned money. No wonder he will not release his tax returns. Trump doesn't deserve to be mentioned in the same breath as President Eisenhower, who led the Allied forces in World War II and, among other things, integrated America's schools. Comparing Eisenhower to Trump? Give us a break.

Donald Trump is the converse of all for which leaders such as Eisenhower, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Ronald Reagan stood. They stood for equality, fairness, and decency. Trump and McCon-

nell obviously do not. Donald Trump stands for hatred and stands for division. Senator MCCONNELL also defended Trump's temperament, reassuring everyone that as President, Donald Trump "would be fine." That is what he said. That is a quote.

The Republican leader also extolled Trump's intelligence. Senator MCCONNELL even claimed the Republican Party is "at an all-time high," with Trump at its helm. That is how the Republican leader spent last week. He wasn't fighting for resources to stop the spread of Zika. He was leading the cheers as he stumped for Trump.

Senator MCCONNELL was doing zero for the 100,000 poisoned residents of Flint, MI. Senator MCCONNELL was doing zero to fund our Nation's response to the opioid epidemic. It is terrible. The Republican leader was too busy being a trumpet for Trump, and now that he has firmly entrenched himself in Trump's corner, I can't help but wonder just how far Senator MCCONNELL's support extends. For example, were Donald's Trump's comments about Judge Curiel racist, as the Senator from Nebraska said? Senator MCCONNELL wouldn't answer that question yesterday. He had numerous opportunities to do it. So I will give him another opportunity today.

There are other questions the Republican leader needs to answer. Does he believe a Federal judge should be disqualified because of his Mexican heritage? Does he believe these attacks are acceptable for a man who wants to be President of our great country? Does he agree judges should face a religious test?

Senator MCCONNELL said last week: "We know that Donald Trump will make the right kind of Supreme Court appointments." After Donald Trump's latest attacks on the judiciary, does he truly believe Trump is the right man to pick nominees to our Nation's highest Court?

The Republican leader defended Trump's temperament, saying he "would be fine" as President. I ask the Senator from Kentucky, is it fine when Donald Trump calls women pigs and dogs? Is it fine when Trump calls immigrants rapists and murderers? Is it fine that his party's Presidential candidate urges violence at rallies? These are not rhetorical questions.

The Republican leader has so fully embraced Donald Trump that we are all unclear as to where Trump's platform ends and the Senate Republicans' begins. If Republicans think a man who believes in religious and ethnic tests for Federal judges is fit to be President of the United States, they must explain why this is acceptable. The Nation has a right to know how far Senate Republicans' support of Donald Trump extends, and that starts with the Republican leader because now there doesn't appear to be any daylight between Donald Trump and Senator MCCONNELL.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3011

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3011) to improve the accountability, efficiency, transparency, and overall effectiveness of the Federal Government.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

TEXAS FLOODING

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, anybody who has been watching the national news—and particularly the weather—knows we have been having some serious flooding back home in Texas. Tragically, we lost nine soldiers from Fort Hood in a very unfortunate drowning incident as part of that flooding. These soldiers were in the midst of a training mission when their vehicle got stuck in a flooded creek. I know I speak for a lot of people when I say my prayers and condolences are with the Fort Hood family and the families of these lost soldiers.

I know from experience that the Fort Hood community is a resilient one and, unfortunately, has seen more than its fair share of tragedy in recent years. But I also know the community there in Killeen, along with the entire State and Nation, will continue to offer support for our men and women in uniform, and particularly for those who have lost loved ones and those who are recovering in the days ahead.

Amidst the sad news, I have been continually thankful for the hard work